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10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
11 EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
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13 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ) NO: 1:22-CR-02012-MKD-2  
14 )  
15 Plaintiff, )  
16 vs. ) PLAINTIFF'S SENTENCING  
17 ) MEMORANDUM  
18 )  
19 ALEXIS SANCHEZ-GOMEZ, )  
20 )  
21 Defendant. )  
22 )  
23 \_\_\_\_\_

24 Plaintiff, United States of America, by and through Vanessa R. Waldref,  
25 United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, and Thomas J.  
26 Hanlon, Assistant United States Attorney, submits the following sentencing  
27 memorandum:  
28

I.

BASE OFFENSE LEVEL AND CRIMINAL HISTORY

The United States agrees with the calculations contained in the Presentence Investigation Report. The guideline range is a sentence of 5 years. See, U.S.S.G. § 2K2.4(b). The statutory range is a sentence between 5 years to life imprisonment. See, 18 U.S.C. 924(c)(1)(A)(i).

II.

DEPARTURES

In the instant case, the parties have entered into a plea agreement pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(C). The parties have agreed to recommend that the Court impose a sentence of 144 months imprisonment. If the Defendant had been found guilty of all counts listed in the Superseding Indictment, the Defendant would have faced a mandatory minimum sentence of 180 months imprisonment. See, PSIR at Para. 101. The government does not believe that such recommendation qualifies as a “departure” under the sentencing guidelines.

III.

SENTENCING FACTORS UNDER 18 U.S.C. §3553(a)

In determining the appropriate sentence, this Court should consider the factors as set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).

1           1. The nature and circumstances of the offense and the history and  
2           characteristics of Defendant.

3           On October 21, 2021, there was a gang related drive-by shooting in the City  
4 of Yakima. A 34-year-old man lost his life simply because he was walking down  
5 the sidewalk while wearing red colored clothing.<sup>1</sup> The Yakima Police Department  
6 (hereinafter “YPD”) immediately began an investigation and ultimately found the  
7 vehicle utilized by the shooter. As the investigation progressed, law enforcement  
8 learned that the shooter and driver fled from Yakima and hid at a residence in  
9 Moxee, Washington. The police gathered evidence which established that the  
10 shooter was likely a member or associated with the Sureno street gang. A  
11 detective with the YPD reached out to the Moxee Police Department (hereinafter  
12 “MPD”) concerning information about known Sureno gang members in Moxee.  
13 The MPD quickly identified the Defendant as a documented member of the Lower  
14 Valley Locos<sup>2</sup> – a subset of the Sureno gang. The YPD detective later learned and  
15 corroborated that the shooter and driver did travel to the Defendant’s residence in  
16 Moxee.  
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22           Law enforcement officers obtained a search warrant for the residence.  
23  
24 During the execution of the search warrant, law enforcement discovered multiple  
25 firearms in the Defendant’s bedroom including an assault rifle. The bedroom was  
26

27  
28           <sup>1</sup> The color red is associated with the Norteno street gang.

<sup>2</sup> Also known as Lil Valley Lokotes

1 decorated with LVL gang graffiti. Officers also discovered ammunition and high-  
2 capacity magazines.

3  
4 Large quantities of marijuana were discovered throughout the house.  
5 Outside of the main residence, law enforcement discovered an underground  
6 room/bunker which was being used to manufacture marijuana. A video recording  
7 system was discovered. Law enforcement viewed video footage which depicted  
8 the Defendant entering/exiting the underground room/bunker while carrying  
9 marijuana plants.  
10

11  
12 In the co-defendant's bedroom, law enforcement discovered distribution  
13 amounts of methamphetamine. The Defendant later admitted that he was selling  
14 methamphetamine and had stored it in the co-defendant's bedroom.  
15

16 As a juvenile, the Defendant was charged with multiple offenses involving  
17 either dangerous weapons and/or firearms. See, ECF No. 7.  
18

19 As an adult, in 2019, the Defendant was arrested after Attempting to Elude a  
20 Police Vehicle. A few months later, the Defendant was arrested after being found  
21 in possession of a firearm. In 2020, the Defendant was sentenced to a short term in  
22 jail. Despite these convictions, the Defendant did not give up his desire to possess  
23 firearms. As noted above, police found multiple firearms, ammunition, and  
24 magazines in his bedroom.  
25  
26

- 27 2. The need for the sentence imposed to reflect the seriousness of the  
28 offense, promote respect for the law, and to provide just punishment.

1           The current offense is serious. A lengthy sentence is necessary to reflect the  
2  
3 seriousness of the offense, promote respect for the law, and to provide just  
4 punishment. Gang members in possession of assault rifles pose a serious threat to  
5 public safety. The Defendant was previously advised and/or ordered, on multiple  
6 occasions, that he could not lawfully possess a firearm. See, ECF No. 7, Pgs 3 and  
7  
8 4. The United States submits that a sentence of 144 months imprisonment is  
9 required and is necessary to promote respect for the law, and to provide just  
10 punishment.  
11

12  
13           3. The need for the sentence imposed to afford adequate deterrence to  
14           criminal conduct.

15           Despite his juvenile and adult history, the Defendant has not been deterred  
16 from engaging in criminal activity. Prior terms of incarceration failed to deter the  
17 Defendant from obtaining dangerous weapons and selling illegal drugs. The  
18 United States submits that a lengthy term of imprisonment is required.  
19

20           4. The need for the sentence imposed to protect the public from further  
21           crimes of Defendant.

22           The Defendant is a danger to the community. The Defendant is a  
23 documented gang member. See, PSIR at Paras 14 and 49. The Defendant was  
24 found in possession of multiple weapons, including an assault rifle and  
25 ammunition. The only viable sentence is a lengthy term of incarceration.  
26  
27  
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1 I hereby certify that on January 5, 2023, I electronically filed the foregoing  
2  
3 with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF which will send notification of such  
4 filing to the following: Ricardo Hernandez  
5  
6

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